Thank You!

A special thanks to our featured couples, Molly and Mark, Karen and Wayne, and Shelia and Kevin, and to the merchants who made this section possible.

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX

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This Friday night

Barter Theatre production set

Tickets are still available for the Barter Theatre production of Tintypes, slated for this Friday evening at 8 in the Appomattox County High School auditorium.

Tintypes, a musical revue that captures the mood of turn-of-the-century America, features 45 songs such as "In My Merry Oldsmobile," "Stars and Stripes Forever," "Meet Me In St. Louis," "A Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight," "Wabash Cannonball," and "Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home."

The Barter Theatre, which opened June 10, 1933 in Abingdon, Va., was the brainchild of Robert Porterfield, a young, out-of-work actor caught up in the depression in New York.

Back home in Virginia, the farmlands were producing good things in abundance, more than could be sold. Porterfield believed that the people in Virginia, who didn't have money for entertainment, might trade food or other goods for the opportunity to indulge in a bit of escapist entertainment, in the form of theatre.

The idea worked. When the theatre opened in 1933, patrons from miles around came to enjoy the theatre, and the reputation of the Barter group grew throughout Virginia and the nation.

In 1946, Barter Theatre was named the State Theatre of Virginia, the first State Theatre in the nation.

Barter Theatre today is the oldest, longest-running professional theatre in the country, and this year celebrates the start of its second half-centruy.

This cultural event in Appomattox is sponsored by the Appomattox Garden Club. "We feel very fortunate indeed to have the opportunity of offering such quality entertainment to Appomattox County," said Ruth Webb, a spokesman for the club.

Mrs. Webb notes that there are a limited number of seats to this show.

"Some tickets are still available," said Mrs. Webb, "and any tickets remaining will be sold at the door the night of the performance. But we encourage people to buy their tickets early, so they will be sure and have a seat in the event of a sellout."

The tickets may be obtained for $5 from any member of the Garden Club, or from Farmers National Bank, Central Fidelity Bank, American Federal Savings and Loan, the Pamplin Branch of the First National Bank of Farmville, the Heritage Inn Restaurant, and Wilbun's Supermarket.

Proceeds from this event will be used for community beautification.

TINTYPES is the Barter Theatre production slated for Friday night at the Appomattox County High School Auditorium. Curtain time is 8 p.m. and the event is sponsored by the Appomattox Garden Club. Don't miss it!

Re-enactment set for Sunday

A major re-enactment of the surrender at Appomattox Court House is planned at the National Historical Park on Sunday, April 8. Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. the event will include approximately 500 participants.

In last week's issue of the Times-Virginian under the photo accompanying the article on this scheduled event, the date was given as April 9. It should have read April 8.

The event, planned by the National Park Service, the Sayler's Creek Committee and its 500 volunteers, will commemorate the 119th anniversary of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant.

Gray-clad Confederate soldiers will march between two ranks of Union troops, stack their arms and equipment, march away according to the manner in which it was done in 1865.

Mark Katz of Gettysburg, Pa., will be on hand in the visitor's center with a display of original Cvil War photographs.

Parking facilities at the park are extremely limited; in order to accommodate guests the surrounding fields will be used for parking vehicles after the main lot has been filled.

In the event of extremely wet weather, parking in the fields will not be possible and the ceremony will be cancelled. For more information call 352-8987.

Child abuse is target

APPOMATTOX MAYOR RONALD C. SPIGGLE signs document proclaiming April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Looking on are Mrs. Cheryl Dawson, left, and Mrs. Jean Hesson, right, members of Multidisciplinary Team. (Photo by Allen Austin)

Booth benefit slated

A concert for the benefit of Mrs. Linda Booth will be held this Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. in the Appomattox County High School auditorium.

Mrs. Booth, an Appomattox County resident, was severly injured in a farm accident last summer. Proceeds from the concert will be used to help her pay medical expenses.

The Hollanders, a six-member family music group which specializes in a variety of music including folk, country, jazz, popular and rock, have been performing for 10 years in Virginia and neighboring states.

The brothers and sisters, who range in age from 11 to 22, hail from nearby Forest, Va.

They have performed with the Statler Brothers, and are known for their close rapport with their audiences.

The concert is sponsored by the Appomattox Young Farmers. Tickets are $5 in advance, $6 at the door.

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Cancer Crusade starts in county

By FRANCES ABBITT

April is Cancer Crusade Month and the American Cancer Society is asking that we give generously in order that through education, research, and patient service, we can get one step closer to realizing the goal of the American Cancer Society...total cancer control.

Many people think cancer is unbeatable. It simply isn't true. In fact, over two million people have had cancer and survived to lead happy, normal lives. Cancer can be beaten and one Appomattox County man, Charles Scruggs, is doing just that.

Scruggs, 66, of the Vera Community has heard the terrible verdict, "You have cancer" and doesn't mind talking about it. It was in 1978 that Scruggs, looking like a picture of health, began feeling kind of 'blah'. Something about his stomach wasn't just right, but he didn't feel too worried, he had been a healthy man all of his life. But, being a cautious man, Scruggs went to see his family physician, Dr. Clyde O'Brien.

O'Brien, a physician of many years experience and keenly observant of his patients, knew something was wrong but couldn't find it. He knew this was something for the specialists; he sent Scruggs to Lynchburg.

Time after time, Scruggs went to Lynchburg, undergoing test after test, blood work and X-rays. He explained to the doctors that, just a few months earlier, he had fainted while attending a wedding in Pennsylvania. Rushed to the hospital in Hershey he was told that nothing was wrong.

"Nothing wrong, so the doctors say, and I'm still feeling bad," thought Scruggs and so, he went back to his family doctor, Clyde O'Brien.

"I believe Dr. O'Brien suspected that I had cancer all along," said Scruggs. "In fact, I believe he thought it for about two years before it was diagnosed."

Even though doctors in Lynchburg failed to find anything to indicate cancer and even one doctor saying, "I only wish I was in as good shape as you, Scruggs," Dr. O'Brien would not let his patient give up. He sent Scruggs to Richmond.

"On April 15, 1983 I went to Richmond," said Scruggs. "I took with me copies of test results, blood work, X-rays and an accompanying letter from Dr. O'Brien. I made numerous trips, going every two weeks."

On July 25, 1983, Scruggs was told that there was the possibility of cancer.

"I wasn't too surprised. And, I wasn't too upset. I knew by then that something was really wrong and I finally had gotten to the bottom of my trouble," Scruggs said.

The following Wednesday morning, Scruggs received a call from Richmond. The verdict was in....cancer of the colon. He was told to report to the hospital on Sunday, July 31 to undergo surgery the following morning.

"I went into the operating room at 7:30 a.m., surgery began at 9 a.m. I came out at 5:30 p.m.," Scruggs said. "The doctors had removed ⅓ of my colon and 16 inches of intestine," he added.

Scruggs' recovery went exceptionally well. Within two weeks he was up and around, and before very long he was puttering in the yard doing light work.

Scruggs never gave up; he never lost hope that his condition would be diagnosed, treated and licked!

"He's always been a happy-go-lucky sort of person," said his wife of 44 years, the former Ruth (Betty) Smith of Birmingham, Alabama.

Scruggs, an Appomattox native, attended Appomattox High School, Ferrum Training School (now Ferrum College) and Phillips Business College. He met his wife when she was in Lynchburg playing the guitar with a band, the Blue Mountain Boys. She had been playing for the Seven-up Company in Alabama and was transferred to Lynchburg where she went to work for the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company playing in a band.

Scruggs, who worked for a life insurance company in Lynchburg, went into the army in 1944, got out in 1946, went back to selling insurance until he moved to Appomattox County in 1949.

"I've farmed a bit, ran a grocery store on Route 60 for a time, closed it in 1970, came to our present location and built an antique shop in 1969," said Scruggs.

The Scruggs are busy people. She still plays music, with the Piney Mountain Band. They love antiques. Amoung the beautiful antiques in their home is the antique walnut bed in which Charles was born. It is approximately 150 years old.

Charles has been a Mason for over 30 years and Betty an Eastern Star member for over 25 years.

Cancer may have entered the lives of Charles and Betty Scruggs but they haven't stopped living. The fear may be there but more than fear is hope and belief that he is going to beat this thing called cancer.

Charles Scruggs knows the importance of research, of treatment, of patient service. He knows that our dollars and dimes add up to the money needed to beat cancer. He believes in giving but not giving up!

"Keep going when you know something is wrong....even when the doctors tell you they can find nothing. Let them say 'I don't know' but don't give up!" said Charles Scruggs with a smile.

Charles Scruggs did more. When asked if he would consider being a part of the cancer research program at the Veterans Hospital in Richmond, he said 'yes'. He is happy to have the opportunity to help. Careful records are being kept of his diagnosis, surgery, recuperation, treatments and response. Charles knows that cancern research is a big step to cancer control.

White Cane sale slated

Appomattox citizens that Friday is White Cane Day, and canes will be sold both Friday and Saturay. Your generous donation will help the Lions help the blind. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Volunteer list released

The Appomattox County Chapter of the American Cancer Society released its list of volunteers collecting for the annual fund drive during the month of April. They are as follows:

Town of Appomattox Residential Chairman...Nina Beasley; Volunteers: Betty Moore, Bot Bass, Izzie Wingfield, Sarah Burke, Dora Conner, Shelia Webb, Ila Wooldridge, Nellie Bryant, Jean Abernathy, Evelyn Almond, Janice Torrence, Shirley Carson, Grace Cunningham, Lyle & Janet Eagle, Katie Doss, Geraldine Mitchell, Wilson Gowin, Ellen Seamster, Pearl Guill, Ruth Webb, Beverly Hall and Dot Davidson.

Outlaying county crusade leaders are: Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Dudley, Mrs. Dot Reynolds, and Mrs. Leon Lawing, Mrs. Dot Wilkerson.

County volunteers are; Mrs. John T. Farrar, Kathy Womack, Wes. Williams, Brenda Franklin, Mary Garriss, Barbara Carr, Barbara Elliott, Ruby Williamson, Becky Fox, Marie Grove, Debbie Beamon, Charlotte Jennings, Linda O'Brien, Irene Mays, Peggy Marshall, Cora Fitzgerald, Mrs. Odell Coggins, Susan Bailey, Joyce Jamerson, Sylvia Hamlett, Patti Loukidas, Linda Kidd.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Curiosity is the mother of invention and items in newpaper colums. Saw a long line of cars on Court Street, so I stopped to investigate. "What's Up, Doc?" I counted seventy-three people in line. The answer: last day for getting county automotive decals. Was told had been the same way most of Friday. And still busy Monday. Our able County Treasurer, Mrs. Ida Belle Campbell, said over 900 county vehicle licenses were sold last Wednesday alone. More were added up Thursday and 913 were sold Saturday, the day I stopped to ask about the long lines. The treasurer's office staff did a splendid job of service. Take a bow. But next year, why not get your license early and help avoid such a rush.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Conner. Had their 56th wedding anniversary St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Sunday was April 1 and traditionally April 1 is known as April Fool's Day. Felt an urge to "April Fool" someone, so pulled up at a service station and when attendant rushed out I grinned and said, "April Fool" do not need any gas today." Have I come down with a mean streak? Incidently, on my calendar is listed as "All Fool's Day."

Spring may or may not have arrived, but violets have. Have noticed lots of violets blooming in my yard and then found out the same elsewhere. Violets and Daffodils.

Take a Bow, Vivian Renee Seay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Seay, of Appomattox. Received the Good Citizen Award of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She is a senior at Appomattox County HIgh School and was selected by the faculty.

Found lots of interesting facts in a Farm and Garden Supplement in The Eastern Shore NEWS. How about this: If all the eggs produced in Virginia were laid end to end, how far would they go? Answer: Virginia produces 929 million eggs. Lay them end to end, carefully of course, and they would cover 2,989 miles. Wow, but they are better on the table. Tobacco is Virginia's number one field crop, but the crop with the largest acreage is hay. 953,821 acres of it. May come back later to more farm statistics.

Most general topic of conversation seems to be the late arrival of Spring weather. Everyone is ready and even the weather man is listening. But I had overlooked that big league baseball was upon us. The umps cry of "Play Ball" began this week. Guess am still a New York Yankee fan, but takes weeks to get used to all the new faces. Basketball had one of its greatest seasons, and Virginia colleges had a fine year. Glory for all.

Want to see a good show? The Barter Players present 'Tintypes' at ACHS auditorium April 6.

Lawnmowers ready? Grass is growning. Thanks for reading and see ya around.

APR